

Message

From: Frey, Rebecca [frey.rebecca@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/7/2015 3:30:14 PM
To: Berkoff, Michael [berkoff.michael@epa.gov]; Saric, James [saric.james@epa.gov]
Subject: prior write-ups for Allied LF and river

Michael-

The last write-up we did for Allied LF in the special hot issues format was back in Sept.2014 – see below. It will need to be revised/updated to reflect current events and, ideally, shortened. We also did a more recent Dec.2014 write-up for the weekly report (different format) that I will also include below. Note that whatever you submit has to be in the format attached to my earlier email.

Jim-

The last write-ups I could find for the river were from April 2013 (subjects were “bankruptcy funds not enough...” and “portage creek removal action”). Looks like you’ll have to start from scratch unless you can find something more recent. I’ve cut & pasted the last write-ups below, but they probably won’t be much help.

THIS ONE IS FROM SEPT.2014

Issue: EPA Outreach and Redevelopment Talks for Allied Landfill – Kalamazoo

Background/Status: The Allied Paper Landfill is the largest of four disposal areas in the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund National Priorities List site. The site includes more than 80 miles of the Kalamazoo River and Portage Creek and former paper mills along the river, all contaminated with PCBs. EPA is currently evaluating cleanup alternatives for the Allied Paper Landfill ranging from consolidation and capping (\$41 million) to complete removal (\$189 million). EPA favors consolidation and capping because it is protective and cost-effective but has not yet issued a proposed cleanup plan for public comment. Since the release of the feasibility study in January, EPA’s community outreach has included availability sessions and site tours, including tours for Congressman Fred Upton on May 27, Senator Debbie Stabenow on July 1, and Senator Carl Levin on August 15. Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell attended all of these tours.

Over the last few years, the city of Kalamazoo and various public groups held the position that complete removal of the waste was the only acceptable option. Since April 2014, EPA, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the city have been engaged in discussions on the shared goal of redevelopment at the Allied Paper Landfill site. Staff from EPA, MDEQ and the city are jointly developing an array of reuse plans that could be acceptable to all parties. As a result, the city appears to have softened its position that complete waste removal is the only acceptable cleanup option. During this time period, Mayor Hopewell asked EPA to reevaluate PCB treatment technologies and their potential applicability to Allied Landfill. Representatives from EPA’s Office of Research and Development (ORD) and the HQ’s Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI) lent their expertise to this evaluation. Due to the nature of the waste at Allied Landfill, the EPA experts concluded that there are no existing technologies that are cost-effective and that would reliably increase long-term protectiveness at the site without significantly increasing short-term risks. The ORD and OSRTI representatives presented their evaluation to the mayor on September 18. On September 19, at the request of Mayor Hopewell, EPA and city representatives toured a waste treatment facility in Battlecreek, Michigan. EPA’s initial impression is that the technology at that location is not cost-effective and would pose higher short-term risks than a consolidation and capping alternative.

Messages:

- Redevelopment discussions with MDEQ and Kalamazoo have been productive and will continue through the near future.
- EPA will share a proposed cleanup plan with the public in early 2015.
- EPA, in conjunction with the City of Kalamazoo and MDEQ, will conduct extensive and varied outreach activities with interested parties through the remainder of 2014.

Contact: Michael Berkoff, R5 SFD, 312-353-8983, berkoff.michael@epa.gov

THIS ONE IS FROM DEC 2014 BUT IS NOT IN THE CORRECT FORMAT (SINCE IT WAS FOR THE WEEKLY REPORT)

Weekly Report for week ending December 12, 2014 (Superfund Division)

City of Kalamazoo to Start Stakeholder Outreach on Collaboration with EPA and MDEQ on Remedy Options for Allied Landfill Portion of Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site, Michigan

Press Interest/Coverage: Local coverage by the Detroit Free Press and MLive

On December 17, 2014 the City of Kalamazoo will meet with local citizen groups to brief them on the City's collaborative work with EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) regarding the development of a consolidation and capping alternative that maximizes redevelopment of the Allied Landfill property in Michigan. EPA, MDEQ, and the City then plan to hold a media availability session in January 2015. The media availability session will be followed closely by a public meeting hosted by the City. In that meeting, the City will explain to the community why they are now pushing EPA for a consolidation and capping configuration that maximizes redevelopment instead of seeking total removal of the waste at Allied Landfill. EPA and MDEQ will participate in supporting roles at the public meeting. It is possible that stakeholder groups could alert the media of the City's revised stance on potential landfill remedies prior to the January 2015 media availability session and public meeting, in an attempt to control the public narrative. EPA anticipates issuing a proposed cleanup plan for public comment in the summer of 2015.

Contact: Michael Berkoff, Remedial Project Manager, (312) 353-8983

Press Interest Detail:

THESE ARE FROM APRIL 2013

Issue: Bankruptcy Settlement Not Enough to Cover Site Cleanup – Kalamazoo

Background/Status: The Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site includes four disposal areas, five former paper mill properties, and more than 80 miles of the Kalamazoo River and Portage Creek contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls. Cleanup costs for the entire site could reach \$1 billion. A Chapter 11 bankruptcy settlement in 2010 between the United States and Lyondell, the parent company of Millennium Holdings, a potentially responsible party (PRP) at the site, provided around \$100 million towards site cleanup. Although other PRPs exist, site-wide cleanup costs will likely far exceed their available resources, and a large portion of the site cleanup may fall on EPA.

Message:

- There are enormous costs involved in cleaning up the Kalamazoo River site, and one of the main PRPs has declared bankruptcy.
- Various enforcement and funding mechanisms may be necessary to advance a project of this magnitude.

- Cleanup work is continuing at the site with remedial investigations ongoing across 25 miles of the Kalamazoo River and remediation occurring along 1.8 miles of Portage Creek.
- EPA expects to issue its proposed cleanup plan for the Allied Landfill portion of the site this summer (see related hot issue).

Contact: James Saric, R5 SFD, 312-886-0992, saric.james@epa.gov

Issue: Portage Creek Removal Action Underway – Kalamazoo

Background/Status: The last 1.8-mile stretch of Portage Creek, before it reaches the Kalamazoo River in Kalamazoo, Michigan, is being cleaned up by EPA under a time-critical removal action. Portage Creek is part of the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site. The removal action will address approximately 18,000 cubic yards of sediment and soil containing more than 2,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). In 2012, work was completed in the two most upstream portions of the project area (known as Areas SA7 and SA6) as well as in a tributary, Axtel Creek, and in the Upjohn Park area of Portage Creek (known as SA5), where some of the more contaminated materials exist. This year's work began in late-March and will address three sections of Portage Creek (known as SA5, SA3, and portions of SA1). The remaining work at the confluence of Portage Creek and the Kalamazoo River will be completed in 2014. To date, more than 13,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and sediment have been removed. The total cost of this removal action is estimated at \$16 million.

Message:

- The Portage Creek removal action demonstrates EPA's continued commitment to conducting significant cleanup activities at the site.
- EPA's removal action is expected to deal with the PCB contamination in Portage Creek so that no further action will be required in the creek in the future.
- Cleanup work is expected to remove 18,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment and soil and will be completed in 2014.
- The Portage Creek cleanup, estimated at \$16 million, is being paid for by EPA and existing funds from previous site-related settlements.

Contact: James Saric, R5 SFD, 312-886-0992, saric.james@epa.gov

From: Frey, Rebecca
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 8:52 AM
To: Saric, James
Subject: RE: HOT Issue Request - Michigan - Due to Becky by FRI 1/9

I'll look through my hot issues file and see what I can find.

From: Saric, James
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 8:35 AM
To: Frey, Rebecca
Subject: Re: HOT Issue Request - Michigan - Due to Becky by FRI 1/9

No problem. I'll work on it today. I just don't have access to my last hot issue and I was hoping to be able to compare this one with the old one.

Jim

From: Frey, Rebecca
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2015 8:25 AM
To: Saric, James; Berkoff, Michael
Subject: RE: HOT Issue Request - Michigan - Due to Becky by FRI 1/9

Nope – not due to me until Friday. I put that info in the subject line but forgot to put it in the body of the message. Sorry about that!
Thanks!

From: Saric, James
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 8:24 AM
To: Frey, Rebecca; Berkoff, Michael
Subject: Re: HOT Issue Request - Michigan - Due to Becky by FRI 1/9

I would think both. One mentioning the latest redevelopment designs for Allied Landfill and another regarding the Area 1 FS and upcoming decision documents.

Are these due this morning?

Jim

From: Frey, Rebecca
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2015 8:17 AM
To: Berkoff, Michael; Saric, James
Subject: HOT Issue Request - Michigan - Due to Becky by FRI 1/9

Hi Michael & Jim,
There has been a call for hot issues for Central Michigan and hot statewide matters. Kalamazoo is probably the only Michigan site in our section that might need a write-up. What do you think? Allied LF? KZoo River? Both?

Reason for the hot-issue call is below, and proper format is attached.

Thanks,
-Becky

Senior R5 management is speaking at an East Lansing event later this month so we'll need Lansing, Central Michigan and the hottest statewide items you can think of.